



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

**NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE**

MM92/0117

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/457,757	12/09/99	012	LOO, D	2856 01/17/01
First Named Applicant	GRADON, 35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.			

TITLE OF INVENTION: RESPIRATORY HUMIDIFICATION SYSTEM

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
3	1171/36576A/	073-861.000	A84	UTILITY	NO	\$1240.00 04/17/01

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

**THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.**

**HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:**

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.  
If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number.  
Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

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**Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/457,797	12/09/99	GRADON	L 1171/36576A/
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EXAMINER

LOO, D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2856

DATE MAILED:

01/17/01

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/457,797

Examiner

Dennis Loo

Applicant(s)

GRADON ET AL.

Art Unit

2856

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/24/00.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are acceptable as formal drawings.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☒ None of the:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_
5. ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

6. ☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
7. ☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS  
(a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review( PTO-948) attached  
1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the examiner.  
(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

8. ☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE / SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
3 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
5 ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
7 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
4 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
6 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment  
8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  
9 ☐ Other

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-12 allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art in the field of flow meters for use with humidified gases does not disclose nor imply the use of the projecting tab means to disperse condensate away from the sensor housing in order to maintain sensor accuracy. Furthermore, in the prior art of humidifiers and respirators, the discussion of condensate relates to the problems of a maintaining a sterile environment as opposed to sensor accuracy. As such, the claimed invention of the sensor probe formed with a sensor housing having a longitudinal axis perpendicular to the gas flow and a projecting tab means for the dispersal of the liquid condensate is seen as new and novel over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Brown et al.(No. 4,098,853), Wrobel et al.(No. 4,537,068), and Koch(No. 6,102,037).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis Loo whose telephone number is (703) 305-1973. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 11:30-8.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4705. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7724 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-3431.

DL

DL

January 16, 2001

  
Hezron Williams  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2800